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Assembly
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COMMITTEES:
HEALTH
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING

369

ART AGNOS
ASSEMBLYMAN, SIXTEENTH DISTRICT

MAJORITY WHIP

August 2, 1977

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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Honorable Forbes Burnham
Prime Minister
Government Buildings
Brickdam, Georgetown
Guyana

Dear Prime Minister Burnham:

Recently in San Francisco a number of people have begun to attach a political meaning to the work carried on by the Rev. Jim Jones and the People's Temple.

As a politician, I am aware from firsthand experiences that the leadership and congregation of People's Temple carry out exceptional public service activities without partisan political overtones.

While it is true that their religious beliefs require active participation in issues confronting the community such as supporting in large numbers the tenants of the International Hotel, 99% of all the work done by People's Temple is in service to the elderly, poor families, and troubled youth. On many occasions I have referred destitute people to People's Temple for help and they have all received it.

It is most unfortunate that some people in San Francisco feel threatened by this very simple organization and philosophy of service.

Sincerely,

ART AGNOS